

100TH INFANTRY BATTALION VETERANS CLUB



PUKA-PUKA

MONTHLY NEWS

PARADE

APRIL 2000

ISSUE #2000-4

FROM THE EDITORS' PUKA

by Ray and Aki Nosaka

In trying to think of something to write and being in a reminiscent mood, I randomly picked up a stack of PPP which were printed in 1990. It is hard to believe that 10 years ago the life of our clubhouse was going through some anxiety and much concern. In each issue, there was some mention of what should be done with our clubhouse and property. It is sad because many of the members who participated in the pros and cons of the situation at that time are no longer here today. I believe they would be happy to see that life goes on as usual at the clubhouse.

Just a reminder that the IRS tax filing deadline is just around the corner. Since April 15 falls on a weekend, you have until April 17 (Monday) to get those important papers in. For the Hawaii State tax, you have until April 20.

An appreciation luncheon for the PPP volunteers will be held on April 27 at the clubhouse after the collating and mailing out of the May issue has been completed. Everybody who has come out to help during the year even if it was only once, or not at all, is invited to join us for food and fellowship. If you have never volunteered before, why not make this the first time—we need you and will be happy to have you join us. Collating begins at 8:30 a.m. Since we will need a general head count, we would appreciate your calling Aki Nosaka at 737-4864 before April 15, and just say, "I'll be there."

Mahalo to the following volunteers who came out on February 24: Bernard Akamine, Otomatsu Aoki, Robert Arakaki, Kunio Fujimoto, Mary Hamasaki, Tokuichi Hayashi, Ed Ikuma, Isamu Inouye, Sally Inouye, Masaru Kadamoto, Lawrence and Regina Kamiya, Gladys Kawakami, Arthur Komiyama, Don and Kimi Matsuda, Y. Mugitani, Joe Muramatsu, Roy Nakayama, Roy Nakamura, Tommy Nishioka, Ray and Aki Nosaka, Tom Nosse, Leo Sato, Kazuto Shimizu, Denis Teraoka, Hiromi Suehiro, Masa Toma, Rikio and Evelyn Tsuda, Ukichi Wozumi, Marie Yoneshige, Kaoru and Sadako Yonezawa. Special thanks to our new comers, Mrs. Katherine Moriguchi (Goro) and Mrs. Nora Morihara (Fred), both widows of A Chapter members. Thanks to Don Matsuda and Cecilee Tanaka for proofreading.

We experienced a rare treat in seeing and hearing Professor Ed Nakasone's performance and presentation entitled, "Pearl Harbor Remembered." Mahalo to the more than 100 people who turned out and for all the donations of refreshments. When he called to thank US, he said it was an exhilarating experience to meet so many of the World War II veterans. Thank you, Ed Nakasone, for telling their story wherever you go.

Marty Higgins, former Commanding Officer of the "Lost Battalion," will be in town on Friday, April 7. He will be visiting the clubhouse about the noon hour and will have lunch here. We know he would be happy to meet you. Please call the clubhouse office and leave your name and telephone number and whether you will be joining in the lunch. Mr. Higgins delivered an emotional speech at the 442nd Veterans Club's memorial service at Punchbowl, thanking the nisei soldiers for their sacrifices.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by President Don Matsuda

Glad to report, we are all hard at work preparing and planning for all the coming Club 100 activities. The Long Range Planning Committee, under the leadership of Warren Iwai, has finalized the wording for the documents needed to open up the club membership to our descendants. A second general meeting for this purpose will be called. It's going to be a short one, followed by lunch and a chance to see the guys, again. So, come on out! Notices with the date and time will be sent out.

The White House will soon announce the names of the upgraded Congressional Medal of Honor recipients of Asian-Pacific Islander descent for action in World War II. In anticipation of this great event, the 100th, represented by Joe Muramatsu, Sakae Takahashi, Stanley Akita and Don Matsuda, is working along with the AJA Veterans Council, the State Office of Veterans Services, CINCPAC, USARPAC, the National Cemetery of the Pacific, and the Chamber of Commerce for a big celebration. The 100th men have always said that more of our guys should have gotten the Medal of Honor. It's about time.

The main speaker at the 58th Anniversary Celebration in Las Vegas will be former Nevada Governor Mike O'Callaghan, currently the Executive Editor of the Las Vegas Sun newspaper. A veteran of the Korean War and personal friend of Col. Young O. Kim, he saw the 100th training at Camp McCoy. He has stories. The Southern California Chapter, Ben Tagami, Sam Fujikawa, Hank Yoshitake, Harry Fukasawa and their wives and chapter members are burning up the e-mail and long-distance lines as they work on all the details for the 4-day event. This ought to be a good one. We survived the greatest depression of the 20th century; we survived the 20th century itself, the bloodiest in history. Let's celebrate! Let's remember and honor those who did not live to share this time with us.

The Board is helping to fund a TV documentary of the 100th/442nd in connection with the ceremonies in Pietrasanta, honoring the Allied Forces who gave their lives for the liberation of Italy. The Bob Jones tour will cover this ceremony which will unveil the statue of Sadao "Spud" Munemori. They will visit various battle sites and Camp Darby. There is an interesting display in our lobby, showing pictures of the mountains we scaled. Come see!

Don't forget the Schofield Barracks Tropic Lightning tour. The Army asked us for a 60-day lead time, which we met, but then it was the usual hurry up and wait. One prerogative the Army couldn't take away from us—gripe, gripe, gripe.

Funny thing. We always strike luck on our tours. Some chance stranger always turns up to turn our tours into great successes. At Fort Benning, Georgia, it was Elsie Jackson, niece of Robert Ikei (C). For the ground tour of Atlanta and Stone Mountain, it was Mike and Gene Doi (A); for the Warm Springs/Pine Mountain tour, it was Jerry Conner, cousin of Lt. Cloudy Gray Conner, Jr. (D-KIA). In Pietrasanta, it will be George Watanabe, an ex-GI working near Camp Darby, near Pietrasanta, who has studied about the nisei units during WWII and has mapped out the battle sites of the 100th/442nd. He will guide the Bob Jones's tour group members around. His wife is an Italian, Che bella! Also, by chance, Stuart Yamane, son of Masakichi Yamane, (F/B), is the producer/director of the documentary for Hawaii Public Broadcasting. For the 58th Anniversary in Las Vegas, the problem of selecting a speaker for the banquet was another stroke of luck—Yukio Tanji (F/B/Rural) sent in an editorial which appeared in the Las Vegas Sun. (When we asked him how he happened to have the paper, he just chuckled and said, "That's a long story.") The editorial was written by Mike O'Callaghan and was a tribute to Col. Young Oak Kim. The committee had already chosen a speaker, but had not yet contacted him. When they saw the editorial, they quickly changed their course of action and asked Drusilla to contact O'Callaghan to speak, which she did by e-mail. Unbeknownst to anyone, Col. Kim had already invited him to the banquet. Our e-mail system is important in all of this, as all of the contacts named above were in constant e-mail contact with our club. We are lucky that our Executive Secretary is very resourceful and installed a free service for our club and constantly monitors the incoming messages.

Important note to Chapter Presidents and Chapter Treasurers: Our CPA, Allen Arakaki, attended the March 10 Board of Directors meeting to answer questions about chapter financial information that the mother club needs to complete the IRS returns. It is very important that we adhere to all of the US Treasury rules so that we do not lose our tax-exempt status. Mr. Arakaki provided each chapter with a form to use to report income and expenses for the year 1999. Please complete and return these to the club office as soon as possible.

The PukaPuka Parade is the monthly newsletter of Club 100, an association of World War II Veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion. Published at 520 Kamoku Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96826.

The following eulogy was delivered by Edwin Shimizu for his father, Albert Shimizu (F/HQ):

Dad's funeral service: February 18, 2000

Good evening. It's heartwarming and comforting to see so many friends and family members here tonight for Dad's service. I just wish we were meeting under happier circumstances. I also wish we weren't meeting so soon after our Mom's passing, only a few months ago.

For those of you who may be wondering, Dad passed away from a weakened heart—both from a medical and emotional standpoint. He had suffered a heart attack last September, went through open-heart surgery and a triple bypass procedure, and seemed to be recovering nicely.

But a few weeks after Dad returned home from the operation, Mom passed away—somewhat unexpectedly—and Dad appeared to lose the will to live. I guess when you've been with someone for nearly 60 years, it's difficult to go on when you feel alone.

His condition steadily worsened until Richard admitted him to Kuakini Medical Center in late January. Then, on February 9, shortly after Carol, Richard, and I had visited him, Dad's heart finally gave out and stopped beating.

Over the past few days, we've been going through our parents' papers, trying to administer the estate according to their instructions. We came across a metal filing box that contained a variety of documents that essentially chronicled the life of Albert Shimizu.

We found out that when Carol was born during World War II, she was a bargain. Hilo Memorial Hospital charged a total of \$47.95 for the entire maternity stay. That included a hospital room at \$2.50 a day and nursery care at 50 cents a day. A few years later, Richard proved to be the most expensive baby in our family with a \$126.12 charge at Kapiolani. He probably ate the most. I came along two years later at \$101.41.

We also found Dad's military discharge papers. We learned that he had been awarded the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts for campaigns along the Italian front. I remember Dad telling me that he really enjoyed being on the front—not for the fighting, but for the relative freedom. He didn't have to put up with officers conducting inspections, and the soldiers could forage around the countryside, catching chickens and cooking them.

But, perhaps the most meaningful documents for Dad were contained in three envelopes. The first was his high school equivalent diploma that he earned from the Department of Education when he was 57 years old. As some of you know, Dad dropped out of school in the eighth grade during the depression to work on the family coffee farm in Kona. So, he never got to graduate from high school like most folks do. The second document was his Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Honolulu Community College that he was awarded when he was 67. The final document was his Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of Hawaii that he received when he was 70.

Those three documents symbolize Dad's personal beliefs and his lifetime achievements. That's one of the reasons why we chose his college graduation photo to display here tonight. The other reason is that it was one of the clearest photos of him where he was smiling.

Dad used to tell us often that he might not be able to give us much, but he wanted to give each of us an education. He thought the value of that would remain with us for our lives. When I was in the fourth grade, he told me that he would put me through law school if I wanted to be a lawyer. The only lawyer I knew at the time was Perry Mason on TV. But Dad wanted me to see real lawyers at work, so he would take me down to

Circuit Court, where we would watch Deputy Prosecutor Mack Hamada in action, trying to put criminals behind bars.

It was Dad's commitment to education that inspired me to keep going through the years. It got me through law school, it got me through the bar exam, it got me into the legal department for the company that I work for. How could I not go on when he continued to pursue his own education, well into his senior years?

Over the past few months, Dad seemed to be preparing for the inevitable. The day before he entered the hospital, he asked Carol to write down some notes about his life. She said it was as if he were dictating his own eulogy. In fact, Uncle Herbert just relied on a lot of those notes.

In our family, Dad was the driving force, Mom was the nurturing spirit. Together, they made wonderful parents. While we will miss Dad, we take comfort in knowing that he is once again together with Mom. Thank you all for coming tonight and for offering us your support and prayers.

(Note: Albert Shimizu is survived by his sons Richard and Edwin and daughter Carol Nakatsu.)

RETURN TO SCHOFIELD BARRACKS: Monday, April 17, is the confirmed date for the tour of the Tropic Lightning Museum and Schofield Barracks, Kolekole Pass, the former Tent City/Boom Town areas, and sites of buildings which you may have visited frequently. We finally have information on transportation. The cost will be \$9 for each person who rides the bus, whether you board it at the clubhouse or at Schofield. The "tour" will last about two hours and will start with a visit to the museum. Then, a windshield tour of the base to the places mentioned and a stop at Kolekole Pass. After the tour, we can stop for lunch at the Nehelani Club. The salad bar or the hot entrée buffet price is \$8.00 per person. We should be back at the clubhouse by 3 p.m.

For those of you who live in the leeward area and do not want to drive into town that morning, our bus driver will stop to pick up passengers after leaving the clubhouse. One stop will be in the Pearl City area. Another pick up point is at the Tropic Lightning Museum for those living in Mililani, Wahiawa and points beyond Schofield. We need a minimum of 23 passengers and the limit is 53. The Club 100 Board of Directors will subsidize the cost of the bus. Those who have already called in to reserve a seat will be called again to confirm their reservations. If you do not receive a call by April 10, please call the office. Anyone else who is interested in going, please call the office at 946-0272.

Y2K – 58th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN LAS VEGAS

Registration is approaching the 275 mark, and additional names to the list which appeared in the March issue follows. Due to fire and safety codes, the hotel will not allow us to squeeze in one more person than the 350 maximum, so do not be disappointed and sign up immediately. We will create a waiting list in case of cancellations. All who have registered so far should have received a memo with a schedule of events, a list of tour options and rooming request if you are booking a room through Club 100. (If you are booking a room through Ray Nosaka, you should be hearing from him soon.) Golf outings are planned for Monday and Wednesday mornings. Slot tournaments will keep the non-golfers busy, and optional tours for shopping, to visit other casinos and to see a stage show are planned. The Hospitality Room will be in the Maile Room (next to the Ohana Room) for Sunday, so there will be extra elbow-room. Because the room is in a more "public" place, name tag ID's will be checked at the door. We'll let you know where the Hospitality Room will be located after Sunday, but, as usual, all you will have to do is follow your nose to the source of the gochiso. Remember to pick up your name tag and registration packet at the Maile Room on Sunday, after 5 p.m. Get some ono goodies at the same time!

Add these names to the list in the March issue: Oswald and Sylvia Kawahara (sorry, Ozzie, for renaming you Edwin), Irving Akahoshi, Dorian Best, Corinne Akahoshi, Dan Futterman, Mildred Fencil, Veronica Kalvaitis, Ann Yanagihara, William and Irene Sato, Shigeru and Fumi Inouye, Clinton Inouye, Clara Katekaru, Stanley and Doris Kimura, Toshimitsu and Toshiko Kondo, Harriet

Nakamura, Betty Ajitomi, Patsy Hayashida, Kentoku Nakasone, Jean Obara, Carl Tonaki, Jane Tonaki, Tadashi and Takako Umamoto, Miyoko Hashimoto, Francis Fujikawa, Masao Fujikawa, Yoshie Fujikawa, Satoko Mizutomi, Albert Takahashi, Edward Kobata, Wayne Fujita, Charlie and Bessie Okazaki, Kay and Estie Kobashi, and Ted and Gladys Toguchi..

SYMPHONIC COMPOSITION DEDICATED TO 100TH/442ND: On March 16, the symphonic composition by Yasuhide Ito, entitled "Go For Broke," was debuted at the Mililani High School Gym. It is a powerful, moving, wonderful musical work of art. The music runs through a gamut of emotions as it salutes the nisei who served so gallantly during World War II. Bandmaster Curtis Hiyane read a stirring introduction to the piece and then introduced Masaharu "Bull" Saito (B) and Yukio Tanji (F/B) who were in the audience. Those familiar with music say that it is a difficult piece to learn, but the Mililani band students were just outstanding in their performance. I couldn't believe the sounds that they made! The finale to the evening's program was "Stars and Stripes Forever," which they played with the precision and flair of military bands. We know they will do well in the Hamamatsu Band Competition. Contributions to help fund the cost of composing the music are still being accepted. Please send your donations to Mililani High School Booster Club, P. O. Box 3115, Mililani HI 96789. Indicate that your gift is for the 100th/442nd composition. Bandmaster Hiyane promised to keep us posted on future opportunities for you to hear a similar performance.

PS: We know of two Club 100 grand-daughters in the band: Kimberly Tonaki, grand-daughter of Warren and Jane Tonaki (HQ) and Brie Fukumoto, grand-daughter of Bob and Bessie Fukumoto (HQ).

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE AT HAWAII HIGH SCHOOLS BY MID-APRIL. Graduating Seniors, please check with your college counselor. Students residing elsewhere or enrolled in an undergraduate program should contact the Sons and Daughters of the 100th Infantry Battalion at 516 Kamoku Street, Apt. 206, Honolulu HI 96826 to receive an application or have a family member pick one up at the Club 100 office. We're sorry that we are not able to fax the application forms. Deadline for applications is May 31, 2000. Recipients of the three \$2,000 scholarship awards will be announced at the 58th Anniversary Banquet on June 20, in Las Vegas.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

by Drusilla A. Tanaka

Mahalo nui loa to the following donors for their thoughtful and timely gifts to Club 100:

- \$25 from Patricia Koji in memory of Kenneth Koji (D)
- \$100 from Alma Kashimoto in memory of Satoshi Kashimoto (Rural)

The PukaPuka Parade received the following donations:

- \$20 from an anonymous donor (B)
- \$50 from Fred and Kimiko Takayama (A)
- \$50 from Sumiyo Kuwahara in memory of Chester Kuwahara (D)

Note to donors who itemize deductions on tax returns: Due to the change in IRS tax code status, donations to Club 100 made after July 1, 1999, are not tax deductible to the donor. In the future, please make donations to the Sons and Daughters of the 100th Infantry Battalion and enclose a note that specifies that the gift is to support a project of Club 100. For example, a gift may be made to support the Club 100 Scholarship Fund, the PukaPuka Parade, the Memorial Service, the Clubhouse Clean Up, the Anniversary Banquet, the Fort Benning Monument, or for any exempt purpose the donor desires. Donors will receive a letter-receipt from the Sons and Daughters which should be saved for tax purposes.

All donations made to Club 100 are tax-exempt to the club, so if you do not need a receipt for income tax purposes, you may make donations directly to Club 100. The club is not required to pay taxes on this income.

We will continue to acknowledge all gifts to Club 100 in the PukaPuka Parade.

Volunteers: Thank you to Bernard Akamine (B) for taking the initiative to create a plaque, displaying the photos of the Punchbowl Volunteers for 1999 and for donating all the materials for it. Thanks, also, to Robert Arakaki (B) for arranging with Pictures Plus to frame the display and to Don Matsuda (A) for hanging it in a prominent place. If anyone is interested in joining the volunteer crew, please contact Stanley M. Akita. According to Director of Punchbowl and honorary member Gene Castagnetti, Club 100 volunteers have given 2,000 hours of time to the cemetery by staffing the Visitor Information Office on Saturdays, more than any other group. It is a valuable service.

Welcome to the Octogenarian Club to the following who will celebrate their 80th birthday in April 2000: Isamu Inouye (A) and Richard Ishimoto (A). A special birthday congratulations to Taro Suzuki (B) who will be 96 years of age on April 25.

†ATTITUDE: It seems that every day we are challenged by rapidly changing technology—whether it is automated telephone answering devices or kitchen devices that can be programmed to have the coffee made before you even wake up or sprinkler systems that water your plants while you're away from home. I still have trouble working the remote control for the television! One person who is not intimidated by high-tech is Kunio Fujimoto (A). He has turned his hobby of making motion pictures with his 16 mm or 8 mm camera to videotaping with his video-cam and tripod. Recently, I watched closely as he expertly zoomed in on a stage performance and captured each performer by carefully panning the stage, then zoomed out to get the musicians. All of this was done without moving the camera. In between, he'll re-load his film and batteries. When the event is over and all the committee members are celebrating a successful affair, Kuni is at home, transferring his Hi-8 to VHS format for the significant parties on the tape, using more of his technical knowledge. Whenever we try to reimburse him for his costs, he always refuses, saying that this is his way of contributing to Club 100. Thank you, Kuni, the recipient of this month's Positive Attitude Award. May all the negatives in your life be found only on batteries!

GO FOR BROKE ANNIVERSARY SERVICE CELEBRATES OUR FUTURE

LOS ANGELES, 3 March, 2000 – The first Anniversary Service at the *Go for Broke Monument* will celebrate the continuing work of the 100th/442nd/MIS World War II Memorial Foundation and its successful educational program. The Service is scheduled at 10 a.m. Sat., June 3, 2000, at the *Go for Broke Monument*, on Central Ave., adjacent to the Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, just north of the Japanese American National Museum at East First and Alameda Streets in Downtown Los Angeles.

A special highlight of the Service will be the premier of two new pieces, the 100th/442nd marching song and MIS song, composed by Tak Shindo. The 60-member Los Angeles Police Band will perform these new songs.

Prominent officials; students of the Foundation's educational program; talented singer and song writer Julie Inouye; conductor, composer and recording artist Tak Shindo; and 100th, 442nd and Military Intelligence Service veterans, their children and grandchildren, will also be part of the program.

Program information is available from the 100th/442nd/MIS World War II Memorial Foundation at 310-327-4193 or by fax at 310-715-3140 or e-mail at Goforbroke@worldnet.att.net.

INFORMATION CENTRAL: *Thanks to all who responded to last month's requests.* Stu Tsubota returned to California with an envelope of statements from George "Oscar" Miyashiro and Stanley Akita (C), Hideo Kon (C), former Executive Secretary, and Hideo Nakamine (442/522 FAB). We're keeping our fingers crossed that California Congresswoman Woolsey is successful in getting a Purple Heart medal for Kotaro Roy Nakamine (Medics). And Charlie Nishimura, Yukio Tanji and Sakae Takahashi (all F/B), spent some time with Stuart Yamane, telling him what they remembered about his late father, Masakichi Yamane (F/B).

MEMORIALS in Los Angeles: The AJA Veterans Memorial Alliance has published a map showing the location of both memorials for the nisei soldiers of World War II. The map also shows

the location of hotels, the Japanese American National Museum and other attractions in Little Tokyo or "J" Town. If you'd like a copy, please call the clubhouse office.

KUDOS: To Martin Tohara (D) and Tokuji Ono (B) who continue to respond to schools' requests for guest speakers from the 100th Bn. Mr. Ono shared a couple of the hundred or so thank you notes he received from their last visit to Hawaii Baptist Academy:

"Mr. Ono: I appreciate your time and knowledge you have given to us. It really meant a lot. I thought you guys would be out of style and slow, but instead were sharp in the mind and very cool. You not only taught us about WWII, but made us laugh and have a good time. I think it was the first time I enjoyed history class. Thank you for fighting and risking your life for us Americans. I give you much honor and respect for your courage and determination. Class of 2002 loves you! HBA. Always, Jaime Shibata. P.S.: It was so hilarious when we wanted to see your battle scars. You said you would (show us) if it wasn't for the law of gravity. You are still good looking and an awesome guy!"

"Dear Mr. Ono, Thank you for coming to our class to teach us about your experiences in the war. One thing that stood out in my mind was your discussion about honor. You told us how important it was to honor your family name. Dishonor was considered to be extremely shameful. Now I understand why you continued to battle, despite injury. I also understand why certain soldiers did things that seemed foolish or hopeless. Thanks for teaching us. We learned a lot. Sincerely, Daniel Isobe"

Thank you to all who have agreed to be filmed, interviewed, photographed, tape-recorded, etc., by students, researchers, writers. If it were not for you, the story of the 100th Battalion would certainly be forgotten. Everyone of you can participate in perpetuating the history of the battalion. When your children or your grandchildren ask you questions, take time to answer. If you'd like to join the speakers' circuit and share your experiences with students, please call Martin Tohara or the club office to volunteer. If you have the time, write your memories, like Francis Shinohara did. As you can see, more than history is taught by your sharing.

FROM FRANCIS SHINOHARA (B) (the third, but we hope not final, part)

THE ENDING

The Champagne Campaign in France was time spent guarding the French-Italian border. A scary moment one evening was riding a quarter-ton truck on the mountain near Menton. The road seemed as high as the Pali Lookout and Jack Kuioka, our catcher on our baseball team, drove the truck without any lights. Those of us in the rear lived in posh hotels with comfy beds. Monte Carlo was off limits. I asked a Frenchman to buy poker chips from the casino for souvenirs. The Societe des Bains chips could be used as francs.

The forest in the Vosges Mountains in Southern France was dreary and miserable. In contrast, rest camp at Nice was heavenly. The train ride from Marseille to Nice was in a 40x8 box car along the Riviera Coast. This area resembled Hawaii for its tourism, palm trees and balmy climate. Nice was much fun with friendly mademoiselle and beaucoup night clubs and dance halls. We enjoyed listening to the French songs "Attendre" and a song that started out, "Je ses va, avek ma."

A brave, young replacement sergeant, Tomosu Hirahara was killed in the forest near Biffontaine. Sergeant Tomosu was from the neighborhood where I grew up and the younger brother of a classmate. He is the only soldier from the 100th Battalion to be buried in France, in a cemetery near Epinal. (Editor's note: Unfortunately, his grave marker says "442nd" rather than 100th/442nd.)

"Marie, the dawn in breaking . . ." was played by an attendant in a hospital near Marseille. He played the song so often that his actions prompted a comment from one of the patients.

War permits unthinkable things to happen. There was a latrine built over a swiftly-moving stream at a replacement depot. We walked along the banks of the stream to the mess-hall

for our breakfast. In the stream, flowing in the same direction, was the contents of the latrine.

Leaving Marseille in a jeep convoy, heading north and after a couple of days, Yasuyuki Kurokawa and I drove a jeep to the Third Army near Epinal. While walking in town, we heard a French band playing with much gusto: "I walk alone because to tell you the truth, I'll be lonely. I don't mind being lonely when my heart tells me you are lonely, too. . . 'Til you're walking beside me, I'll walk alone."

Reclassified for limited service, Sgt. Naoji Yamagata, and a few of us joined the veteran 239 Signal Operations Company. Another Buddahead (Japanese-American from Hawaii) and I obtained a weekend pass to a rest camp at Strasbourg, but we caught a train for Paris. The officer-in-charge eyed us suspiciously as we tagged along on the tailend of his group on a sightseeing tour. In the evening we went to see the Folies Bergere. Standing up high and in the back of the theater dimmed our artistic view of the show. Next morning, we saw people dining in quaint outdoor cafes as we walked along the Seine River toward the Eiffel Tower.

Leaving Paris with an expired pass was unfortunate. MPs stopped us at the train station and charged us with being AWOL. However, a sergeant met us on our return to the company and informed us that the report from the MPs had been taken care of. How wonderful it is to be in the right communication outfit and have a savior rescue us from our predicament!

It was wonderful and heroic for the 442nd Regiment through brutal fighting and suffering heavy casualties to rescue the 1st Battalion of the 141st Regiment of the 36th Division. The 1st Battalion was advancing toward historic St. Die when they were cut off three miles from the nearest friendly unit and surrounded for five days in the forest near Bruyeres, France.

Shortly after this dramatic rescue, the 442nd Regiment was recalled by the 5th Army in Italy. They were to be the secret weapon to break the stalemate in the Apennine Mountains of Northern Italy.

It happened because of war. My journey ended in the German cities of Mannheim and Heidelberg. Late spring in Mannheim was living in a comfortable basement of an apartment on the banks of the Neckar River flowing from Heidelberg. Couples among the bulrushes of the Neckar River upheld its name. Picking bing cherries off a tree outside the apartment complex was a first for me.

A jeep ride helping Pete, strongman from Utah, deliver a few sacks of mail from the Mannheim airport to the 7th Army headquarters in Heidelberg was an enjoyable task. Heidelberg is a college, castle and cultural city. For these reasons and similar to Kyoto in Japan, she was spared the devastating bombing that Mannheim and other industrial cities suffered.

The war with Germany ended and having accumulated enough points, I headed home for discharge. The flight from Paris to North Africa was in a B17 bomber. Sitting in the nose of the bomber and just below the pilot in the bombardier's position permitted a panoramic view of the French and Spanish mountains.

The flight attendant of the B17 proved to be a slick con artist. After taking our picture beside the plane, he persuaded us to write our name and address. He then suggested that in return for our cigarettes and rations he would send the picture to us. We never received any picture.

The flight from North Africa to Florida included a stopover for lunch in the Madeira Islands. The highlight of the lunch was the astonishment of a flustered cafeteria worker as we stood in line for our meal. "You speak Portuguese!" he exclaimed incredulously, in the meantime giving Sadashi Matsunami an extra helping.

Haina ia mai, ana kapu ana. My story ends with a 442nd Regiment song:

**“442nd Infantry, the boys from Hawaii Nei.
We’ll fight for you and the red, white and blue.
... fighting for Uncle Sam,
Go for Broke, we don’t give a damn.”**

(Note: Francis used his writer’s license to contrast the Champagne Campaign with the fighting in the Vosges Forests. The chronological order of events was: Vosges Mountains, including Bruyeres, Biffontaine and Rescue of the Lost Battalion; the Champagne Campaign; return to Italy, and Po Valley Campaign and Gothic Line action. Before the 100th returned to Italy, Francis was reclassified for limited service and spent the remainder of the war in Mannheim and Heidelberg with the 239 Signal Operations Company.)

The following article is reprinted with permission from the Honolulu Advertiser. It first appeared on October 30, 1999. Thanks to Jimmy Maeda (A/Hawaii) for sending it in.

**Reader’s Journal
James Maeda**

In 1943, Bert Nakano and my brother, Susumu Maeda, began to organize the Hilo Sugar Co./Wainaku Mill. They felt the time was right to organize a union to improve working conditions and increase wages and other benefits.

Nakano graduated from Hilo High School in 1932 and went to work in the sugar fields of Papaikou. He also worked as a stevedore at age 20. On Aug. 1, 1938, he was shot by police during the Hilo Massacre at Hilo Wharf.

He spent 17 months in the hospital and came out using a cane. He went to work as secretary-treasurer of the longshore union in Hilo.

In December 1943, Nakano and Jack Kawano of Honolulu contacted some Onomea and Hamakua plantation workers about organizing.

Maeda and Amos Ignacio began organizing the Hilo Sugar plantation. Sus, my brother, was a machinist’s assistant. He found the task of organizing was not an easy one. They had to sell the idea of a union to Filipino, Japanese issei and nisei, Portuguese workers, and others.

The Maedas lived in a camp with Filipino workers. The trust and contact were there. Maeda and his committee were able to get a majority, and a union was formed at Hilo Sugar Co.

Other plantations followed. By June 1944, the ILWU claimed five plantation majorities. Jack Hall and Frank Thompson were in charge of the ILWU sugar unions. Maeda lost his Army deferment and found himself in the Army, serving in the Philippines and Japan.

In May 1944 while with the 100th Infantry Battalion at Anzio Beach, Italy, I received a disturbing letter from my sister, Lillian. Brother Sus was busy at the home front organizing a union for plantation employees. A civilian employee for the Army threatened to send our father, Seihe, a Japanese citizen living in Hawaii, to a concentration camp if he didn’t get Sus to lay off organizing the union at Hilo Sugar Co.

The news was not happily received in Italy by my comrades and me from Hawaii, who were fighting for our country. Upon my return to Hawaii after the war, I was informed the problem had been taken care of with the help of the National Labor Relations Board.

My father was on the picket line during the 1946 and 1949 strikes. Thanks to the union, employees and their families were able to enjoy better living conditions, purchase their homes, send their youngsters for higher education, travel to Las Vegas, enjoy their vacation and new cars.

HEADQUARTERS NEWS

by Kenneth Saruwatari

No news is good news. Look for something in the mail soon about our next get-together in April.

BAKER CHAPTER NEWS

by Bernard Akamine (pinch-hitter for Joe)

Baker Chapter Family Night will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2000. Come early because the last time the late comers had very little to eat. More details in the May issue. But save the date for fun and games.

It was announced that Hajime Yamane will continue to represent Baker Chapter on the Long Range Planning Committee. Masa Toma is our representative to the House and Apartment committees and China Yamashina is on the Nominating committee. The chapter is still looking for someone to be the mutual assistance committee head. Any volunteers?

Thanks to Isao Nadamoto for bringing in a copy of the material written about Haelan, that soy-bean drink that helped him so much.

CHARLIE CHAPTER NEWS via the internet

by Warren Iwai

Have you heard? Charlie Chapter is rejuvenating. 18 members attended our meeting on March 20, 50% more than usual. It was good to see Chester Hada and Kentop Nakasone healthy and back again. Our surprise was Rusty Nakagawa. Rusty is semi-retired and puts in a few hours each day in his business at Alexander Brothers. He is looking great with a small opu and a spring in his steps. We're expecting him to be a regular at our meetings.

Part of the meeting agenda was to view a documentary film, entitled "Most Decorated – Nisei Soldiers," courtesy of Hiromi Suehiro. It was a good documentary on the 100th/442nd RCT. If anyone is interested in viewing this at home, please call Hiromi.

Yoshio Anzai was recently awarded a plaque by the Pearl City Bonsai Club in appreciation of his many years of service as Sensei and advisor for the club. Pearl City Bonsai Club is celebrating its 37th year and Yoshio was its 4th president. Congratulations, Yoshio Anzai, we are proud and happy for you.

Robert Satoshi Sato (weapons platoon) from Mill Creek, Washington, wrote to me earlier this month and says he enjoys the PukaPuka Parade. He said he will be speaking to the men of the 1st Armored Division, near Frankfurt, Germany, in May as part of their Asian Pacific Month program. Also, he said there is a Nisei War Memorial at the Lakeside Cemetery in Seattle which I will go to see this summer. Robert will be in Honolulu from April 28 thru May 8 to visit his son and family. I'm hoping he can join us for golf on May 3rd at the Navy Marine Golf Course.

LADIES CORNER: On February 26, the ladies of Charlie Chapter met at Buffet 100 for lunch. They had a wonderful turn out of fifteen wahine. Can you hear them—fifteen of them all talking. They had a good time renewing their friendship. Those present were Alice Nakagawa and Marian Yamamoto, chair persons, Dorothy Onishi, Ai Kawamoto, Lynn Shimizu, Amy Ikeda, Janet Kuwaye, Takako Umamoto, Doris Kimura, Maizie Nakamura, Betty Iwai, Kay Oshiro, Alice Shiozaki, Gloria Suehiro and Yuki Akita.

The next luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, April 8, 11:00 a.m. at the Willows. You will be hearing from Yuki Akita and Maizie Nakamura.

NEXT CHARLIE CHAPTER MEETING IS ON APRIL 17. See you there.

DOG CHAPTER NEWS

by Helen Nikaido

We were saddened with the passing of Takao Miyao, a very active member of Dog Chapter Hilo. Our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Chieko Miyao, daughters Susan and Sandra and his family.

We have fond memories of our first Co. D statewide reunion in Hilo. Takao and the boys and their families worked so very hard to make it a most enjoyable and successful reunion. I remember my first taste of the mountain oysters. I didn't know what it was, but was curious, so I tried. It was supposedly a delicacy. When I started to bite into it, they told me what it was. I spit it out and flung it so far. Ugh!

Richard Hara is in a care home in Waipahu. Would be nice if you can visit him or send a card. His address at the care home is 94-284 Kahuanani, Waipahu, HI 96797.

Our congratulations to Steve Takushi, son of the late Yasuhide and Jean Takushi. He is the president of the Sons & Daughters of the 100th Infantry Battalion.

On March 11, "China" Yamashina, Ruth Watanabe and I were at Punchbowl Cemetery, volunteering at the visitors center. At the center, they have two new computers which give you all the information: name, location, section, grave site, row number and a print-out of the map. We didn't have to flip, flip, flip through the pages of the book and jot the information for the visitors. It's a wonderful machine and fun, too.

The Punchbowl volunteers enjoyed a delightful luncheon at the Wisteria on March 17. Mr. Gene Castagnetti, Director of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Nanette, funeral director at the cemetery and Drusilla Tanaka were there. The old-timers received a certificate of appreciation from the Dept. of Veterans Affairs for our voluntary participation at the National Cemetery. It's a great feeling when you are able to help the visitors and the local people and we get to visit with them, too.

RURAL CHAPTER CHATTER (via the internet)

by Ted M. Hamasu

The Chapter held its bi-monthly meeting at Jerry Yamaki's conference room at the Westgate Shopping Center Office in Waipahu on 17 March 00 from 11:00 AM with 12 members and wives present.

After purchasing our lunch, we headed up to Jerry's office, which is located on the third floor of the large building complex. Jerry greeted us with a big smile and said something but I couldn't understand because of his soft voice which was a little better than couple of weeks ago. He was treated for cancer of the esophagus and he says that it will take some time to return to normal. As usual he passed around the drinks as we ate our lunch. Michael Hamamoto and I were the first to arrive and were joined by Walter Iwasa, Bull Saito and Lefty Mizusawa. As we were having our lunch, Shizuya Hayashi, Tamo and Mrs. Shimizu joined us. We were joined later by Yukio Tanji, Walter Sekiya and Harry Kamikawa. After everyone was through with his lunch, the meeting was started by the pounding of the gavel by the prexy at 11:40.

The prexy began by thanking all for coming and wished that more of the members would take advantage of our change of locations for our meeting between Wahiawa and Waipahu in trying to accommodate the members living in these areas.

After the preliminaries and committee reports, the prexy brought up the question of *Omimai* from the Chapter to the individual member. Since the IRS prohibits the giving of *Koden*, we decided that the chapter will discontinue giving *Omimai* from this day. The motion was unanimously approved.

On the assumption, that this year is the 50th year after the activation of Rural Chapter, I asked some of the charter members about my assumption and after hearing their comments, we were not sure. So, more research is needed to find out the age of our chapter.

Those of you who want to attend the Y2K 58th year Anniversary in Las Vegas may do so by contacting the club office ASAP.

The scholarship committee decided to invest \$107,892.00 in mutual funds with Charles Schwab & Co. as our advisor.

Those wishing to donate to the scholarship fund may do so by making a check to our S&D and noting that it is for the Club 100 Veterans Memorial Scholarship Fund only if you want a tax deduction for that donation. If not you may write a check directly to our scholarship fund without going through the S&D.

Donations for the 100th Infantry Battalion Monument at Ft Benning are still being accepted at the Club Office.

The LRPC recommended to the BOD that starting July 1, 2000, the dues for active members would be \$100 for life membership or \$10/year. The wives and widows of the Club 100 members are classified as associate members. They do not have voting rights and cannot become officers of the Club.

Correction is in order to the donation received by Rural Chapter at our Installation Banquet. The corrected amount is \$25.00 instead of the \$15.00 noted in the March issue of the PPP. My humble GOMEN NASAI to Mr. & Mrs. Shimizu.

Our next meeting will be held at Zippy's of Wahiawa on 19 May, 2000 from 11:00 AM. See you all there.

KAUAI CHAPTER NEWS

by Tsugi Takemoto

Having checked the old, old files of the Westside Club 100, as requested by the Old Timers, I came up blank, but did find two notes to tell them where to look. They shall proceed, after all, I didn't move to Kauai until 1972. In the meantime, the present officers—Muggsy Morikawa, President; Larry Sakoda, Vice President; Maxie Mukai, Treasurer and Tsugi Takemoto, Secretary, shall continue. I kept hearing that women have no rights, so in that case, I shall gladly resign. In the mean time, I will carry on until things are cleared.

Jack Hada informed me that Tamotsu Hirayama has moved to Honolulu to live with his son, so is no longer a member of Kauai Club 100. Will call Drusilla, as the official count in the last PukaPuka Parade does not agree with my count of the Kauai members.

Anne and Masao Yotsuda are joining the Bob Jones Tour to Italy, so they said they would miss the April 30 meeting. Anne is part of the Group 3 ladies who are in charge of the Mothers/Fathers Day luncheon, along with Tokiko Yoshioka, Renee Moritsugu, Sally Arakaki, and Margaret Sakai, so she is worried. At least the ladies are on the ball.

I am off to Washington, D.C. on March 24 on American Legion Auxiliary business.

MAUI CHAPTER NEWS

by Tom Nagata

Maui Chapter's first luncheon meeting of the year was held at the Tasty Crust Restaurant, Wailuku, on Tuesday, March 7. Chapter President Stanley Izumigawa presided. Goichi Shimanuki, in charge of the chapter's financial investments, gave his annual report. Satoji Arisumi, Mothers' Day Dinner chairman, reported that this year's dinner will be a luncheon party to be held at the Asian Cuisine and Sports Bar Restaurant in the Kahului Shopping Center at the former Porttown Delicatessen and Yoshizawa Dry Cleaners building facing Lono Avenue on Tuesday, May 16. The menu will be beef teriyaki, shrimp tempura, chicken and other dishes plus a large cake. It was decided to assess each couple \$10.00, singles \$5.00 and widows free. The treasurer will appreciate your bringing the correct amount to pay for the lunch. The starting time for the lunch is 11 AM, so come in before that time.

Members decided not to hold our family picnic due to declining attendance, but the rest of our program will be held as scheduled. Due to the Club 100 CPA's advice, our koden and get-well gift practice will be on hold until further notice. No activity is scheduled in April, so there will not be a Maui Chapter news next month. See you at the Mother's Day luncheon at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, May 16.

HAWAII CHAPTER NEWS

by Jimmy Maeda

The Weather: after two months of dry season (drought) the rains finally came last Saturday. The flowers, plants, vegetables, lawn grasses and weeds, trees and other vegetation were very happy. At present with fruit trees blooming with their white flowers we probably will have some fruits in a few months. Of course it also depends what kind of strong wind will be coming. The volcanic fog is still around. It also has some effect on the fruits.

The exhibit, "From Bento to Mixed Plate" is at present showing at the Lyman Museum, in Hilo. It will be showing until June 30. It is a very excellent historic, educational, and entertaining exhibit for the young and old. The cost is \$3.00 for the seniors, \$5.00 for others. People living in Hamakua, Kohala, Kona, Kau and Puna are urged to drive into Hilo and see this exhibit. After June 30, the show will be going to Okinawa, opening in early November and then to Japan. A few of the locals with 100th Inf. Bn. Veterans connections have volunteered as docents. Eugene Eguchi goes on Monday mornings, Jimmy Maeda on Wednesday mornings and Marjorie Hirokawa, Wednesday afternoon. Maeda finds himself taking care of the 100th Inf Bn., 442nd Inf. Regt and MIS (Interpreters) section. People from all over the world have come to visit the exhibit. While telling the story of the "lost battalion" to some people from Texas a man said, "my father was a member of the group that was rescued." Another story: on a Friday, Sue Kuwaye Toyama who grew up at Honokaa during WW II was working as a docent. Two buses with students and parents/chaperones came to visit. One of the parent-chaperones, Sonya Kuboyama, daughter of Lorraine and DSC Lt. Chicken Miyashiro (C) of Honolulu, came by and was surprised and happy to see her father's photo hanging on the wall together with General Mark Clark. Lt. Miyashiro was receiving his Distinguished Service Cross Medal from the General. Chicken Miyashiro grew up in Honokaa and attended Hilo High School prior to WW II. Those of you living on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, Lanai and Molokai, who have not seen the exhibit, come to Hilo and see the exhibit before it leaves Hilo. You won't have another chance to see it in Hawaii until 2002.

This writer found out the saying, "age will catch up with you" is real. At the age of 80, on Feb. 23 had a cardiac catheterization (angiogram) done at the Kuakini Hospital in Honolulu. I thank the doctors and nurses for not taking out anything. The recommendation from my cardiologist: NO red meat, eggs, little salt and continue your exercise. I give a prayer of thanks-giving to God for looking after me.

NEWS FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND MAINLAND

by June Kurisu

There was a good turnout of 100th members at the 100th/442nd/MIS Association's Installation Luncheon on January 15. The officers installed were Russell Nakaishi of the Sons of the Association as President; Ben Tagami as First Vice President; Frank Seto as Second Vice; Tadd Tokuda as Secretary; and Henry Yoshitake as Treasurer and also Association Coordinator. Al's Garage entertained. They are a group who play ukuleles and guitars and sing Hawaiian and other songs. They take their name from the place where they practice. Our own Chip Mamiya, son of the late Buddy and Lily, was the speaker. He spoke about the educational program of the Go For Broke Monument Foundation.

Beverly Picazo met the challenge again as hostess of our Valentine's Dinner that we all look forward to. Beverly planned a delicious menu at the Chinese restaurant on North Broadway. She had Beanie Baby dragons for those who were born under the sign of the dragon. They are no longer made so are worth more than face value. Chisato Yamaguchi gave us each a jar of her delicious kumquat jam as she has done in the past. The Hank Hayashis had boxes of their enormous camellias for the women guests. Many thanks to these folks and the others who contributed to the goody bags and for the candy. Those who were at this not-to-be-missed affair were Hank & Kaz Yoshitake, Ted & Chiz Ohira, Duke & Dorothy Ogawa, May Fujita, Wayne Fujita, Harry & Harumi Sasaki, Hank & Elsie Hayashi, Yeiki Matsui, Douglas Tanaka, Howard Tanaka, George Kurisu, Toe Yoshino and his friend, Shieko Aiso, Mas & Elma Takahashi, Ben & Jean Tagami, Toke & Rae Yoshihashi, Ed & Amy Nakazawa, Nora Kim, Marie Demonteverde, Al & Connie Takahashi, Bill & Irene Sato, Ed & Karen Toguchi, Mitsu Fuchigami, Sam & Teri Fujikawa, Norman & Eva Noda with ever growing Kiana, Sam and Teri's granddaughter, Russell Nakaishi, Kei & Chisato Yamaguchi, Ken & Hisa Miya, Beverly Picazo, Harry Fukasawa, Noby Okamoto, and June Kurisu. I managed to get names of guests from the other tables and thought that I'd remember those sitting at my table, but I left off one or two names. Sorry. I can report that a "good time was had by all." We missed Michi Toda, who was in the hospital. We hope she is well on her way to recovery. Lloyd stayed home in sympathy.

Our heartfelt sympathy to the families of John Y. Furukawa, Headquarters, 100th, and Takao Miyao, first sergeant in D Company, who passed away. Sumi Mizuno had a fire in her home in Oxnard. I hope to get more details.

CLUB 100 CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR APRIL 2000

ABLE	Saturday, April 22	8 a.m.	Lounge
BAKER	Saturday, April 15	1 p.m.	Lounge
CHARLIE	Monday, April 17	10 a.m.	Board Room
DOG	Saturday, April 15	9 a.m.	Board Room
HQ	watch for announcement in the mail		
HAWAII	Thursday, April 27... Ladies' Luncheon...	...AJA Veterans Mem. Hall	
MAUI			
RURAL			
KAUAI			
BOARD	Friday, April 14	10:00 a.m.	Board Room
S&D BOARD	Friday, April 21	7:00 p.m.	Board Room
GREEN THUMB	Monday, April 3	10:00 a.m.	Lounge
KARAOKE FUN NITE	Friday, April 14	6 p.m.	Turner Hall
MEMBERSHIP AND DUES COMMITTEE...			
HOUSE COMMITTEE MTG... Friday, April 7	9:30 a.m.	Board Room	
APARTMENT COMMITTEE MTG... Friday, April 7	10:30 a.m.	Board Room	
MEMORIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE... Wednesday, April 12	10:00 a.m.	Board Room	

The Office will be closed all day on Friday, April 21 in observance of Good Friday, but the clubhouse and lounge will be open as usual.

Between April 10 and 13, the Executive Secretary will be working elsewhere to concentrate on getting all of the information completed for the Y2K tour to Las Vegas. Please leave a message on the telephone answering device and she will call you later in the day.

Deadline for articles for the May 2000 issue is Tuesday, April 18, 2000. E-mail articles to sillanstan@aol.com or fax to (808) 946-0273.

The PukaPuka Parade collating will be on Thursday, April 27, at 8:30 a.m. Dog, Medics, and Headquarters Chapters are responsible for providing the manpower and refreshments, but everyone else is welcome to help.

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APRIL 2000 ISSUE

